



Rocky Flats Amends Record of Decision to Hasten Material Disposition

The Energy Department has issued an Amended Record of Decision (ROD) that addresses the management of certain plutonium residues and scrub alloy stored at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. The amended ROD finalizes a preferred alternative identified in a related programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

The Amended ROD provides that approximately 315 kilograms of plutonium fluoride residues will be packaged at Rocky Flats in preparation for disposal at the department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, N.M.

The 315 kilograms of bulk material contains approximately 142 kilograms of plutonium. Under the original ROD it was proposed that the material be transported to the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina for processing. The residue material will now be prepared and packaged at Rocky Flats for final disposal at WIPP. These materials, called residues, were left over from plutonium purification and manufacturing operations carried out during the Cold War, as part of the United States' nuclear weapons production activities.

Several major benefits will result from permanent disposal of the material. Those include completing the disposal of the material five years sooner than what was envisioned under earlier proposals, and removing the residues from Rocky Flats in a timeframe that supports closing the site by 2006.

Rocky Flats is a DOE-owned Superfund cleanup site and former nuclear weapons production facility operated by Kaiser-Hill Company, LLC. The site's mission includes special nuclear material stabilization; decontamination; deactivation and decommissioning; waste management; environmental cleanup; and site closure.

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